GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3402
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015
HOSTING FOOTBALL WORLD CUP
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bid for hosting Football World Cup in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far, in this regard;

(c) whether the Govenment has taken any steps to build world class Football stadium in the country to host Football World Cup in the Country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the performance of football players in national and international sports competitions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) & (b) Madam, the primary responsibility for the development and promotion of a sports discipline rests with the concerned recognized National Sports Federation (NSF), which in the case of football is the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The Government supplements the efforts of the NSFs by providing financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training/ coaching of national level sportspersons/teams through Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of equipment and consumables etc. as per agreed Long Term Development Plans.

Government of India considered the proposal of AIFF and furnished the Declaration and Guarantees of the Government, sought by AIFF for their bid to host Under-17 FIFA World Cup in India in 2017.

(c) & (d) Sports is a State subject. However, Government of India and Sports Authority of India regularly invests in creation of infrastructure for various sports disciplines including Football. Football stadia of international standard are available in cities like Kochi, Mumbai, Guwahati, Kolkata, Delhi and in Goa.

(e) Football has been included as an important event in the school games and played in the categories of under-14, under-17 & under-19 for boys and girls. Also, football is included in the

University games, conducted by the Association of Indian Universities. Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) holds separate national & international football tournaments at the school level. AIFF also organises a number of tournaments for senior and junior players across the country.

Apart from this, the Sports Authority of India is running the following promotional schemes in which football is one of the disciplines and training by experienced coaches with scientific back up is provided to the players to achieve excellence at national/international level:

(a) National Sports Talent Scheme (NSTC)
(b) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
(c) SAI Training Centre (STC)
(d) Special Area Games (SAG)
(e) Centre of Excellence (COE)

In addition, AIFF has set up 5 National Academies located one each at Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai and two in Goa to impart training to the children born in or after 1997. The players in these Academies come from all over India, selected from the various competitions including the National Championships conducted by AIFF. These AIFF Academies are full-time residential academies where the players undergo training under the supervision of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) accredited coaches.

Further, AIFF in conjunction with FIFA, has started a nation-wide Grassroots program aimed at boys and girls aged between 6 − 12 years of age. Currently the program is in operation in the States of Maharashtra, Manipur, Goa, Kerala, West Bengal and in the Union

Territory of Chandigarh. The aim of the program is to get more boys and girls playing football and having fun in a safe, non-competitive environment.